IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute claims 1-38 with the following:

1.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management system for performing transaction processing of content which is usable by a user device, said content usage-fee management system comprising a service provider for managing a service for the provision of the content, wherein said service provider receives a usage log from said user device, said usage log being created by said user device and including log information containing data of a content usage fee, and said service provider compares the content usage fee with a predetermined threshold value so as to determine whether the use of the content is allowed.

2.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management system according to claim 1, wherein said service provider comprises a user management database in which threshold data is provided for each user, and said service provider compares the content usage fee with the predetermined threshold value based on the threshold data stored in said user management database.

3.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management system according to claim 1, wherein, when the content usage fee exceeding the predetermined threshold is recorded in said usage log received from said user device, said service provider requests a clearing center which manages an electronic money balance of said user device to inquire about the electronic money balance usable by said user device.

4.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management system according to claim 1, wherein the content is sent to said user device in the form of a secure container including the content encrypted with a content key, and said service provider sends the content key to said user

device only when it is determined that the use of the content is allowed by comparing the content usage fee contained in said usage log with the predetermined threshold value.

5.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management system according to claim 1, wherein said user device deducts the content usage fee from an electronic money balance up to an amount of money set in an issue log based on information of a usage control policy of the content, said issue log being created by a clearing center which manages the electronic money balance of said user device, and said user device creates said usage log containing the deducted usage fee data and sends said usage log to said service provider.

6.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management system according to claim 1, wherein said service provider creates a receive log including the usage fee data based on said usage log received from said user device, and sends said receive log to a clearing center which manages an electronic money balance.

7.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management system according to claim 1, wherein said user device stores threshold data as an upper limit of the usage fee usable by said user device, and the threshold data is checked when said usage log is created, and, when the usage fee is found to exceed the threshold data, said user device adds identification data indicating that the usage fee exceeds the threshold data to said usage log.

8.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management system according to claim 7, wherein, upon receiving said usage log with the identification data, said service provider requests a clearing center which manages an electronic money balance of said user device to inquire about an electronic money balance usable by said user device.

9.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management system according to claim 1, wherein each of said user device and said service provider comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when said usage log is sent from said user device to said service provider, mutual authentication processing is performed between said user device and said service provider, and said user device attaches a digital signature to said usage log, and, upon receiving said usage log, said service provider verifies the integrity of the digital signature.

10.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management system according to claim 6, wherein each of said service provider and said clearing center comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when said receive log is sent from said service provider to said clearing center, mutual authentication processing is performed between said service provider and said clearing center, and said service provider attaches a digital signature to said receive log, and, upon receiving said receive log, said clearing center verifies the integrity of the digital signature.

11.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management method for performing transaction processing of content which is usable by a user device, said content usage-fee management method comprising the steps of:

receiving, by a service provider for managing a service for the provision of the content, a usage log from said user device, said usage log being created by said user device and including log information containing data of a content usage fee; and

determining by said service provider whether the use of the content is allowed by comparing the content usage fee with a predetermined threshold value.

12.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management method according to claim 11, wherein said service provider comprises a user management database in which threshold data is

provided for each user, and said service provider compares the content usage fee with the predetermined threshold value based on the threshold data stored in said user management database.

13.　(Original)　A content usage-fee management method according to claim 11, wherein, when the content usage fee exceeding the predetermined threshold is recorded in said usage log received from said user device, said service provider requests a clearing center which manages an electronic money balance of said user device to inquire about the electronic money balance usable by said user device.

14.　(Original)　A content usage-fee management method according to claim 11, wherein said service provider sends the content to said user device in the form of a secure container including the content encrypted with a content key, and said service provider sends the content key to said user device only when it is determined that the use of the content is allowed by comparing the content usage fee contained in said usage log with the predetermined threshold value.

15.　(Original)　A content usage-fee management method according to claim 11, wherein said user device deducts the content usage fee from an electronic money balance up to an amount of money set in an issue log based on information of a usage control policy of the content, said issue log being created by a clearing center which manages the electronic money balance of said user device, and said user device creates said usage log containing the deducted usage fee data and sends said usage log to said service provider.

16.　(Original)　A content usage-fee management method according to claim 11, wherein said service provider creates a receive log including the usage fee data based on said

usage log received from said user device, and send said receive log to a clearing center which manages an electronic money balance.

17.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management method according to claim 11, wherein said user device stores threshold data as an upper limit of the usage fee usable by said user device, and the threshold data is checked when said usage log is created, and, when the usage fee is found to exceed the threshold data, said user device adds identification data indicating that the usage fee exceeds the threshold data to said usage log.

18.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management method according to claim 17, wherein, upon receiving said usage log with the identification data, said service provider requests a clearing center which manages an electronic money balance of said user device to inquire about the electronic money balance usable by said user device.

19.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management method according to claim 11, wherein each of said user device and said service provider comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when said usage log is sent from said user device to said service provider, mutual authentication processing is performed between said user device and said service provider, and said user device attaches a digital signature to said usage log, and, upon receiving said usage log, said service provider verifies the integrity of the digital signature.

20.   (Original)   A content usage-fee management method according to claim 16, wherein each of said service provider and said clearing center comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when said receive log is sent from said service provider to said clearing center, mutual authentication processing is performed between said service provider and said

clearing center, and said service provider attaches a digital signature to said receive log, and, upon receiving said receive log, said clearing center verifies the integrity of the digital signature.

21.   (Original)   A program providing medium for providing a computer program which allows content usage-fee management processing for use in transaction processing of content usable by a user device to run on a computer system, said computer program comprising:

a step of receiving a usage log from said user device, said usage log being created by said user device and including log information containing data of a content usage fee; and

a step of determining whether the use of the content is allowed by comparing the content usage fee with a predetermined threshold value.

22-38. (Cancelled).